

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A storage area network (SAN) including a first and second digital data processors executing a first and second operating systems, respectively, in communication with one or more storage devices, comprising:

a first platform-specific process executing on the first digital data processor;

a second platform-specific process executing on the second digital data processor,

wherein the second operating system is different from the first operating system;

a first common platform-independent process executing on the first digital data processor, wherein the first common platform-independent process invokes and communicates with a first command line interface of the first operating system to effect execution of the first platform-specific process via command line parameters; and

a second common platform-independent process executing on the second digital data processor, wherein the second common platform-independent process invokes and communicates with a [[first]] second command line interface of the [[first]] second operating system to effect execution of the second platform-specific process via command line parameters.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 1, wherein each of the first and the second operating systems can be any of a Unix™, a Windows™, Solaris, AIX operating systems.

4. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 1, further comprising a manager in communication with the first and second common platform-independent processes to transmit requests thereto for information regarding one or more components of the SAN.

5. (Previously Presented)The SAN of claim 4, wherein the first and second common platform independent processes respond to the requests from the manager by invoking the first and second platform-specific processes, respectively.

6. (Previously Presented)The SAN of claim 5, wherein the invoked first and second platform specific processes gather information regarding one or more SAN components and transmit the information to the Standard Output/Error of their respective first and second digital data processors.

7. (Previously Presented)The SAN of claim 6, wherein the first and second common platform independent processes capture information in the Standard Output/Error transmitted by the invoked first and second platform specific process, respectively.

8. (Previously Presented)The SAN of claim 7, wherein the first and second common platform independent processes transmit the captured information to the manager for further processing.

9. (Previously Presented)The SAN of claim 4, wherein the manager comprises a query engine for transmitting the requests to the first and second common platform independent processes.

10. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 9, wherein the query engine comprises a registry identifying the first and second common platform independent processes and the first and second digital data processors, respectively, associated therewith.

11. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 10, wherein the registry provides one or more identifiers for communicating with the first and second common platform independent processes.

12. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 9, wherein the query engine formats the request in a mark-up language format.

13. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 12, wherein the mark-up language can be any of XML and HTML.

14. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 13, wherein the first and second platform independent processes format the captured information in a mark-up language format for transmission to the manager.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage area network having first and second digital data processors and one or more storage devices in communication with the digital data processors, comprising:

- a manager in communication with the SAN components;
- a first platform-specific process executing on the first digital data processor, the first digital data processor executing under a first operating system;
- a second platform-specific process executing on the second digital data processor, the second digital data processor executing under a second operating system different from the first platform;
- a first common platform-independent process executing on the first digital data processor, wherein the first common platform independent process invokes and communicates with a first command line interface of the first operating system to effect execution of the first platform-specific process via one or more command-line parameters;
- a second common platform-independent process executing on the second digital data processor, wherein the second common platform independent process invokes and communicates with a second command line interface of the second operating system to effect execution of the [[first]] second platform-specific process via one or more command-line parameters; and
- the manager transmits a query to the first and second common platform-independent processes to request information regarding one or more of the SAN components and the platform independent processes invoke the first and second platform-specific processes, respectively, to obtain the requested information.

16. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 15, wherein the invoked first or second platform specific process gathers information regarding one or more of the SAN components and

transmits the information to the first or second command line interface of its respective digital data processor operating system.

17. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 16, wherein the first and second common platform independent processes capture the information in a Standard Output/Error transmitted by the invoked platform specific process.

18. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 17, wherein the manager comprises a query engine for forwarding the query from the manager to the first and second common platform independent process.

19. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 18, wherein the query engine comprises a registry containing information for identifying the first and second common platform independent processes and their respective first and second digital data processors.

20. (Previously Presented) The SAN of claim 19, wherein the first and second common platform independent processes register with the registry to provide identification information thereto.

21. (Previously Presented) Computer readable media including code executed by a first and second digital data processors having first and second operating systems in communication with one or more storage devices, wherein the code comprises:

- a first platform-specific process executing on the first digital data processor;
- a second platform-specific process executing on the second digital data processor, wherein the second operating system is different from the first operating system;
- a first common platform-independent process executing on the first digital data processor, wherein the first common platform-independent process invokes and communicates with a first command line interface of the first operating system to effect execution of the first platform-specific process via command line parameters; and
- a second common platform-independent process executing on the second digital data processor, wherein the second common platform-independent process invokes and

communicates with a second command line interface of the second operating system to effect execution of the second platform-specific process via command line parameters.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media of claim 21, further comprising:

a manager in communication with the first and second common platform-independent processes to transmit requests thereto for information regarding one or more components of the SAN.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the first and second common platform independent processes respond to the requests from the manager by invoking the first and second platform-specific processes, respectively.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media of claim 24, wherein the invoked first and second platform specific processes gather information regarding one or more SAN components and transmit the information to the Standard Output/Error of their respective first and second digital data processors.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media of claim 24, wherein the manager comprises a query engine for transmitting the request to the first and second common platform independent processes.